

## Sunday April 20, 2025 Easter Sunday

*Happy Easter! We are so glad that you joined us for worship today! Whether you call NUMC your church home, or you are a guest with us today, we want you to know that no matter who you are, where you've come from, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Please take the time to fill out the contact card located in the pew, and place it in the offering basket when it comes your way. Our ushers and greeters are here to help you feel at home—so please don't hesitate to ask if you should need anything at all. Welcome!*

### Welcome and Announcements

### Centering Song

### We Share Christ's Peace

### We Are Called to Worship

My dear friends, we have known grief. We have known loss. We have known the long road, tired and winding. We have whispered prayers on bended knees. We have stared at the sky, empty of stars. But today...

### **Today we know hope.**

Today we know life.

### **Today we know the sound of Alleluias.**

Today we know that death does not have the last word.

### **Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.**

It is Easter. May hope find you. And may you know, deep in your bones, that today is a new day.

**Alleluia! Amen!**

### We Join in Song: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (#302)

### Opening Prayer

God of Alleluias and empty tombs, God of garden plots and good news. It is Easter. It is *finally* Easter.

**In a world full of grief and heartache, in a world full of violence and oppression, in a world full of loss and separation, we long for this day because Easter sings a different song.**

Easter sings a song of hope. Easter sings a song of new life. Easter sings a song of love that makes you want to jump out of your chair and run barefoot to

the tomb. Easter smells of fresh flowers and baked bread. It sounds like trumpets and laughter. It feels like a crowded table and a warm hug. Yes, Easter sings a different song.

**So, in a world full of grief, help us cling to Easter's hope. In a world full of grief, help us hear this story of good news. In a world full of grief, we're ready to jump out of our chairs and run barefoot to the tomb. With hope we pray and with hope we listen. Amen.**

### Children's Time

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### We Offer Our Gifts

\*Doxology #2036 "Give Thanks" / Offertory Prayer

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. And now let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks, give thanks!**

### We Hear the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 10: 34-43

### We Join in Song: Sing Alleluia to the Lord (#2258)

### We Hear the Gospel Reading: John 20: 1-18

### The Message: Pastor Nick

An Affirmation of Faith

In the dark before dawn, we believe that God is still alive. In the midst of our grief, we believe the Spirit is at work. In the chaos of our broken world, we believe that love is on the loose. For no stone could keep God at bay, and no violence could keep God's love from us. So today we sing Alleluia! For somewhere in between our belief and doubt, hope lives. Christ has died, and Christ has also risen. Thanks be to God. Amen!

Holy Communion

We Join in Song: Table of Plenty (#3173)

Our Statement of Commitment to Racial Justice

The United Methodist Church proclaims the value of each person as a unique child of God and commits itself to the healing and wholeness of all persons; recognizing that the sin of racism has been destructive to its unity throughout its history, and racism continues to cause painful division and marginalization. We, the community of faith at Newtonville United Methodist Church, shall confront and seek to eliminate racism, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large; working collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of racial justice at all times and in all places.

Sending Song/Blessing: Draw the Circle Wide

*Our guest musicians today are:*

*Christian Giunta, trombone*

*Christopher Kurbiel, violin*

*Thank you!*



## **Newtonville United Methodist Church**

**Rev. Dr. Nick Bufano, Pastor**

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